

to temperance matters. He pointed out that when the Liberal party had introduced a bill to abolish the bar not a Government supporter had voted in favor of the measure. Within a year the Government had even gone farther than the Opposition. Mr. Clarke declared himself as emphatically against the bar being again legalized.

Mr. Clarke commended the Government for its housing bill, but pointed out that there should be some provision whereby the Government would protect the purchaser of a house for three or four years. He had some fun at the Government's expense as the result of the recent by-elections. "It is a peculiar thing to me that if this Government has been doing as much for the farmers as it thinks it has, the results should have been what they are." Of course, he remarked, the farmers knew about Government House and similar extravagances. There was just one way the Government could retrieve itself in the eyes of the farmers, he said, and that was by asking the Dominion Government to remove the special tariff.

"Why doesn't my honorable friend move it?" interrupted Hon. G. Howard Ferguson.

"I will move it now, and you can second it," shot back Mr. Clarke.

But Mr. Ferguson would not take up the challenge.

"I would move it, second it and carry it," rejoined Mr. Clarke.

#### Highways and Radials.

The speaker thought the highway scheme was a big proposition. He suggested that there would be greater satisfaction if instead of spending so much money on highways it were spent on building radial railways through sections not being served by railways now.

Major J. I. Hartt (East Simcoe) said he believed it would have been better had there not been the truce between the two parties. He criticized Mr. Proudfoot, the Opposition Leader, for applauding the previous speaker in remarks anent the by-elections, and also applauding when Mr. Widdifield was introduced.

Mr. Proudfoot rose to a point of order and objected to this statement. He denied that he had applauded on either occasion.

"I am bound to accept the word of the Leader of the Opposition," said Major Hartt. "There was so much evidence of joy across the floor of the House that I may be excused for believing that he participated in the rejoicing."

#### Country's Debt to Soldiers.

Dealing with the question of soldiers, Major Hartt said that the problem of providing properly and adequately for the returned men was a large and complex one, but it must never be thought that the returning veterans were of a type who would assert that the world owed them a living. They did not suggest such a claim, but, on the other hand, the country unquestionably did owe to these home-coming veterans the opportunity to make a living. In connection with the Housing Bill he hoped to see special provision made for the returned man, such as in cases of default. In such instances there ought to be provision for fair adjustments and some special privileges might very well be granted to veteran soldiers in the working out of the bill itself. He also hoped to see provision made by the Province for mothers who were left destitute by the taking of their bread-winners, even although these were without dependent children. He had changed his mind on the matter of extending the franchise to women, and would now welcome them because of what they had done in the war.

While overseas he had learned much of the benefits of reforestation, and in his own county there were large areas adaptable for such work, mentioning particularly the Camp Borden district. Such work would be the finest for soldiers. The road question would also find assistants in solution in the returning men, who had studied road building methods in England and France.

Mr. J. C. Elliott (West Middlesex) joined with his colleague and spoke kindly of the late members of the House and Sir Wilfrid Laur-

ter, who had represented the highest integrity in public life. In discussing the termination of the war, Mr. Elliott said that the women had contributed very largely to the result, and they were entitled to seats in the Legislature. He criticized Major Hartt's attack on Mr. Proudfoot, and expressed disapproval of that member's remarks anent Mr. Widdifield that he had "stolen" into the House.

#### Advocates Fixing Wheat Prices.

Mr. Elliott said that Ontario would pay its full share of the expenses of the war. He referred at length to the fixing of the wheat prices. The price of \$2.20 fixed in June, 1917, was not set in the best interests of the farmers, because at that time the market price was 20 cents higher. When the cost of labor and materials went up the price of wheat did not do so, although the agricultural machinery manufacturers took advantage of the increased prices. At the present time the farmers should be assured of the fixed prices for another year, now that other costs are decreasing.

The principle of public ownership was strongly supported by Mr. Elliott. He recalled that in 1914 he had favored the taking over of telephone systems in Canada. They should be expropriated by some Government before many years had passed, and the speaker thought the sooner this was done the less it would cost the country.

"I will suggest that this Government should take up the question of the expropriation of the Bell Telephone System at the earliest possible moment," said Mr. Elliott. "They have been accumulating large profits and assets, which, if turned into a Provincially-owned system, would be preserved for the public."

Continuing the debate after recess, Dr. G. J. Musgrave (Niagara Falls) reviewed the good deeds of the Government during the war period, and particularly during the last year. He spoke highly of the services of the district agricultural representatives and commended the Government's good roads policy to the farmers.

#### U.F.O. Member Speaks.

The members were all curious to hear the maiden address of the first United Farmer representative elected to the House. Mr. Beniah Bowman, of Manitoulin, who followed Dr. Musgrave. Mr. Bowman made a good impression on the House. He had his address carefully prepared, his facts well marshalled, and while a back bencher, the members showed much interest in his remarks.

The U.F.O. speaker was glad to see the unanimity on the part of the Government and the Opposition on all measures having as their purpose the welfare of the returned soldiers. Whatever criticism the farmers had of expenditures by the Government, they were thoroughly in agreement with all monies devoted to the soldiers' cause. He was surprised at the matter of tariff being introduced into the debate, but even as a farmer he would not deal with that question.

While he had not intended to make any complaint, he would not allow the aspersion of Major Hartt on Mr. Widdifield as "stealing his way into the House" to go unchallenged.

#### Replies to Hartt.

Referring to the defeat of the Government in the by-elections, and particularly in his own case, Mr. Bowman said that the Government had made great efforts to defeat him. The Prime Minister and several Ministers had entered the riding, and they had taken the speaker and his campaign as a joke.

"I don't wonder at the Government not saying anything about the by-elections. I would not either," declared Mr. Bowman.

"That statement 'stealing into the House' has taken hold of me," said Mr. Bowman. "We never spent a dollar for a vote, and in my election campaign I never made a promise. I said that I would stand by the people and would work for the interest of the people, and on that ground we won out."

Mr. Bowman expressed pleasure with the O.T.A., and voiced the opinion that the law should be what the people really desired. "The people should have a direct vote on this, as well as on every other great question." He urged the necessity